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EXCLUSIVE

CHINA PLANS ANGER ANSHE

TYCOON FURY AT LAB'S FLAWED ASIA STRATEGY

BY CARRIE SODWIND

ANSHE CHUNG is furious with Linden Lab for missing opportunities in China, according to a source at ACS.

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FOR DISABLED SLERS**



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IN SHOCKWIN**

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"I think people wanted to believe the Second Life fairytale, believe members of the community wouldn't hang them out to dry. But there's a crook around every corner."

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"It should come as no surprise to anyone that China is crucial to the future of SL. After all, this is a country with more than 200 million internet users, according to reports. That's more than three times the population of the UK."



LEIDER STEPANOV
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THE AVASTAR

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By CARRIE SODWIND

LAB CAUGHT NAPPING AS CHINA BOOMS

EMPTY STRATEGY: These sims could have been packed with Chinese residents

LAND BARON SLAMS LAB'S SHORTSIGHTEDNESS OVER CHINA STRATEGY

ANSHE Chung is furious with Linden Lab for failing to expand SL into the lucrative Chinese market, according to a source close to the in-world land baron.

Chung, who is of Chinese origin in RL, is reported to be angry that the Lab has fallen behind other virtual worlds in the race into the Asian superpower. A source at her China-based ACS company, one of the largest in SL, told The AvaStar this week: "We have been shaking our heads in disbelief for more than three

years. If Linden Lab would have listened to Anshe, there would be a higher penetration of SL in China now than in any other country, the Olympics wouldn't be running on ActiveWorlds and the future of the Chinese Metaverse wouldn't belong to other companies' platforms."

DELAYS

It has been widely predicted that LL will move into China since November last year, when rumours spread in Beijing that the company had bought offices in the city.

But there has been no word from the Lab since, and in an interview with The AvaStar, Jean Linden said that delays were probably being caused by the authorities in China, who are known for censoring freedom of speech: "The Chinese government will be forced by [Chinese virtual world] HiPiHi to draw some conclusions about whether its citizens should be allowed to fully

participate in virtual worlds."

SENSITIVE

Cindy Jiang, PR director at HiPiHi, said: "Everything in HiPiHi complies with Chinese regulations – no pornography, gambling, violence or politically sensitive material. There is still a long way to go. Internet has its own culture in different places, which everyone should respect and try to understand."



DISBELIEF: Land baron Anshe Chung feels Linden Lab have got it wrong



DELAYS: Jean Linden hopes authorities will allow virtual world expansion in China



BANKS MAY OPERATE ILLEGALLY AS THOUSANDS ARE YET TO RECEIVE L\$ BACK

THE predicted scenes of panic as investors rushed to withdraw savings before the ban on banking came into effect this week failed to materialise.

Linden Lab's ban came into force on Jan. 22 following two weeks of controversy and protest. Facing sanctions by LL, in-world banks seemed to be complying with the rules, with plenty of empty gaps on the grid where ATMs had once stood.

Many residents still feel resentful towards the Lindens, their bank or both for the situation and the way it arose. Others, however, displayed greater understanding and sympathy for the bankers.

But Endz McMahon, who stands to lose the L\$700,000 he invested in three banks, can do little

now but wait. He feels Linden Lab is to blame for the problem: "I don't think the banks will vanish. I trust them and believe I can get L\$ back. But the decision was too sudden and caused panic."

ILLEGAL

The banks themselves have seen their resources slashed as they scrambled to pay back investors. JT Financial has had deposits cut by 33 per cent to L\$67,000,000, while BCX lost more than 50 per cent of its value and now only has L\$5,000,000 on the books. But many are looking to the future. Tyrian Camilo, CEO of The Second Life Investment

Bank, told The AvaStar that suggestions he was looking to sell up are untrue, while JT Financial and BCX are concentrating on restructuring and continuing trading under the new rules. Other banks are exploring alternative options such as relocating to the new Central Grid, an open source development independent of LL. And just as casinos went underground in the wake of the ban on gambling, many expect banks to continue business illegally as well.



LAB STILL HAS TIME TO FIX SL

LL MUST CHANGE COURSE OR SL WILL BE A VIRTUAL DISNEYLAND

ANONYMOUS accounts, age verification, VAT and the bans on gambling and banking - DELTANGO VALE argues that the Lindens are making a complete mess of SL.

PHILIP Linden and the Lab's board of directors are highly skilled engineers with little or no knowledge of economics, economic history, strategic planning or customer relations.

As SL grows from a technological start-up to a mature business, they are out of their depth. They are making serious mistakes. They are destroying the wealth and confidence of the entrepreneurial class who risked enormous time and money to build SL in the first place. More importantly, they have lost sight of their original vision.

SAD

The business plan and founding principle of SL was to create a world which was virtu-

al, voluntary and adult, framed by the philosophy of individual liberty and responsibility. Second Life was NOT intended to be a pale imitation of real life. The sad irony is that now, out of ignorance and a naive desire to 'do good', Linden Lab is poisoning the very world they created and seek to protect. So how do we fix it?

INTEGRITY

At the moment, there is no viable alternative to SL as a comprehensive virtual world, so the Lab still has time to fix things. They should take the following steps:

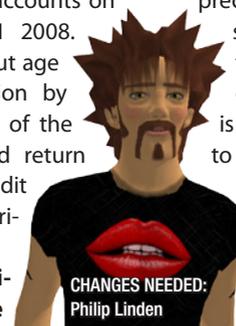
- **Regain integrity of the system.** Announce the closure of all anonymous accounts on March 1 2008. Phase out age verification by the end of the year and return to credit card verification.
- **Stabilise the**



financial system. Lift the ban on banks. Give residents information, not regulation, and the system will evolve in a healthy and productive way.

• **Resist the temptation to sanitise SL.** The road to hell is paved with good intentions; the desire to protect residents from themselves will only lead to a downward spiral of regulations to offset the harmful effects of other regulations.

We are here by choice, precisely for the reason to escape the restrictions of RL - and there is no Berlin Wall to prevent us from leaving. Disneyland already exists. We don't need another one.



NEWS BITES!

ELECTION FEVER

AN election fund-raiser was held in-world on January 21 for a US politician. Donors from different parts of the US gathered to support Mark Pera, who is standing for a seat in the House of Representatives.

GINKO ASSET SALE

A SERVER owned by Ginko Financial has appeared for sale on eBay. The reserve price is US\$3,200 but so far no bids have been received. The bank collapsed last year owing investors US\$750,000.

BLOCKADE DEMO

A PEACEFUL protest against the RL Israeli blockade of Gaza was held on January 22. A big crowd of residents took part in the event, which was held at the IslamOnline.net sim to highlight the ongoing humanitarian crisis that is developing in the region.

HOMO AVATARUS

HOMO Avatarus is the next level of Darwin's theory of evolution according to the second edition of the Polish-based printed magazine, SL'ANG Life. The magazine is distributed for free in RL.

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ROW OVER SLART

MAGAZINE'S TRADEMARK CAUSES CONTROVERSY IN ART WORLD

By LEIDER STEPANOV

A CLASH over the term 'SLART' has caused a deep split in the in-world art community.

The trademark on the term is owned by ArtWorld Market, who uses it as the title of his art review website. Last week, Market – Richard Minsky in RL – caused controversy by sending legal 'cease and desist' notices to others using 'SLART' in various ways. Some in SL's art community have slammed Market for attempting to profit from what they argue is a word belonging to all residents.

UGLY

Among the most vocal opponents of Market is renowned photographer Vint Falken, who criticised the situation on her blog: "SLART is not an ugly, offensive or

idiotic word. On the contrary, Richard Minsky liked the terminology SLART that much that he trademarked it.

IGNORANT

He found it to be such a pretty word, that nobody but him may use it, unless they pay him a 'reasonable fee', of course."

Market has defended the move, and branded critics as ignorant. Speaking to The AvaStar, Market said:



"Someone got offended that I had the trademark and wants to 'liberate' it. They didn't grasp that I coined the term in 2006, and filed [for the trademark] with the USPTO.

DETERRENT

"Actually, I don't see why artists are so upset. All the uses of it are after I started SLART. Before that everyone was saying SL Art." Market added that the reaction this week has not been a deterrent: "It's always sad when people act and react out of ignorance. I will take whatever action is required to protect the trademark." Among the sites to be affected by the trademark row was the SLart wiki, now renamed VirtualArtpedia.

BIG SUPPORT FOR SL GREEN SWITCH

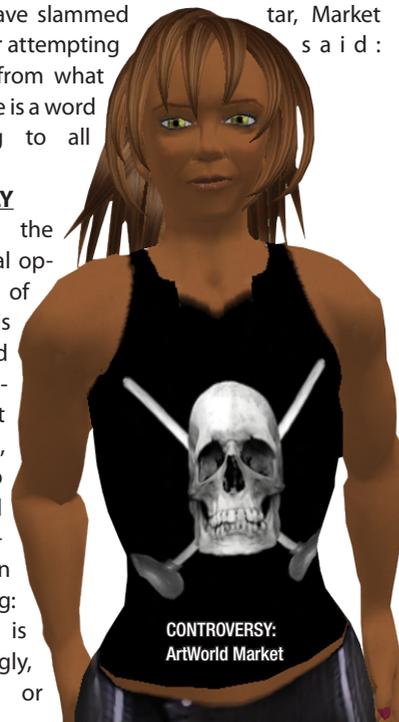
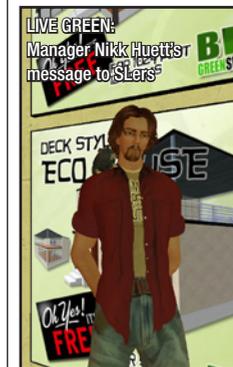
By KITTY OTOOLE

AVATARS are going green thanks to a new project raising awareness of environmental issues in SL.

The Big Green Switch Eco-Emporium was launched in-world recently as a treehouse, and contains freebies and information for avatars about the environment and how to reduce the impact on it.

MESSAGE

Eco-friendly goodies include houses which can be used on the smallest plots of land, wind turbines, compost bins and even 'wormeries'. Manager Nikk Huettler hopes the sim will help spread the message about smarter, greener living in RL. There is also a chance for residents to offset their avatar's carbon footprint, with the money collected going towards tree-planting schemes in the UK.



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BABY IN SHOCK WIN!

BEAUTY BABYHONEY BAILEY CROWNED MISS UNIVERSE *By GAETANA FAUST*

THE Miss SL Universe competition came to a dramatic and controversial climax after the wrong contestant was named winner.

Miss Greece Babyhoney Bailey eventually claimed the crown at the Galveston Isle sim on Saturday, but only after Miss Israel Elisne Allen was proclaimed the winner following a mix-up.

CONFUSION

The girls were among 12 contestants hoping to win the title as well as L\$250,000 and a house. They faced a panel of judges at the sparkling ceremony, which was attended by some of SL's best-known faces, including architect Scope Cleaver, land baron Alliez Mysterio and renowned designers Nyla

Cheeky and Rebel Hope.

But confusion reigned when Babyhoney was named in second place behind Elisne after the sim crashed.

In a group notice explaining the mishap, organiser Isabela Laval blamed

the problems on "the collective nervousness of the judges, the contestants and the crowd." The run-

ners-up spot eventually went to Elisne, with Miss USA Summer Deadlight third, The AvaStar's own Miss Spain Isabel Brocco fourth and Miss Hong Kong Mui Mukerji in fifth.

ALL GOOD

Elisne was philosophical after her brush with victory, and told The AvaStar: **"It's all about focusing on the positive things in your life. I didn't win the house or the money, but I didn't go home empty-handed. It's all good!"**

Organiser Frolic Mills said he was delighted with the event despite the mistake. The contestants appeared before the judges in their national costumes, bathing suits and evening gowns. But they also had to prove they had brains as well as good looks when asked questions by the panel. Frolic said: "I am truly quite honoured. It was a five-hour show and the sim never fell below 70 people."



OH SO CLOSE: Miss Israel Elisne Allen thought she had won



GLAMOUROUS: Ladies take to the stage to impress judges

GOD SAVE OUR QUEEN: Babyhoney Bailey finally puts on her crown after the confusion

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Babyhoney Bailey

MISS

DRIVERSE



Beautiful Babyhoney Bailey
shows us why she was
crowned Miss Universe...
we couldn't help but agree!

VOICE BOOST FOR DISABLED SLERS

NEW VOICE CONTROLLED PRIM TECHNOLOGY COULD HELP DISABLED RESIDENTS IN-WORLD

By *CARRIE SODWIND & COYNE NAGY*

DISABLED residents have been given a huge boost thanks to ground-breaking technology which allows avatars to a move a prim object in SL using voice control.

The opening of the Parsec sim this week could revolutionise the way in which residents participate in-world, with a smoother and more involving relationship with 3D objects. The potential impact on people who are disabled in RL, particularly those suffering from severe paralysis, could be massive. Yukiko Omegamu, who has Asperger's syndrome, said: "SL

teaches people how to overcome some aspects that are hard like communication and interaction with people managing projects. Parsec could be a very positive tool for getting people involved, depending on how it is used."

CONFIDENCE

Parsec works through the voice feature. Once residents have activated it, a prim is produced in the shape of a black ball which responds to the sound of the avatar through movement and music.

The project was created by technical wizards Dizzy Banjo, Chase Marellan and Eshi Otawara, and

is based at Intersection Unlimited HQ. Banjo said: "During testing we have seen lots of groups of people start out the session as strangers, and leave (hours later) feeling close to other members of the group, confident in voice and having befriended many of them."

At the moment Parsec technology is being used for fun, but Banjo added: "The possibilities are mind boggling. It could have especially significant benefits to users who may not be able to use keyboard and mouse – for instance a paralysed user could interact with the environment using just their voice."

ASTONISHING TECHNOLOGY: Dizzy Banjo activates the black balls using his voice



FRIENDSHIP: Strangers get to know each other using Parsec

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

INVESTORS HUNG OUT TO DRY

Hey Regis,
I AM staggered at the amount of L\$ some of the banks have made off with. Although it was a while back, I read that the Ginko CEO pocketed around US\$700,000! Geez. It really makes you wonder why we didn't all pull that scam!
Your paper came down hard on the bankers, blaming them for ripping off residents.

But to be honest, can you really blame them. If people are so stupid as to 'invest' their money, and when I say invest I mean give it with no guarantees to a person hidden behind an avatar with whom you have no RL contact, then they get what they deserve.

I think people wanted to believe the SL fairytale, believe members of the community wouldn't hang them out to dry. (And I think a couple of bankers really didn't want to rip people off). But there's a crook around every corner trying to pull your pants down. I just

can't believe that so many people fell for the scam.
By Deep Voight

PHOTOREALISM TO HELP DATING

Dear Regis,
I found the article on Photorealistic skins fascinating.
I joined SL to meet new people and possibly even a partner. And I just think it would be so much easier if I could get an idea of what someone looked like before I start talking to them. Not because I'm shallow, but it just helps you pick someone out from among the masses.
By M.B.

L\$500
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PHIL MISS-ES OUT ON CROWN!

DRESS PHIL UP!
SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO
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POOR old Phil Linden dead last in the beauty pagaent. Still, the dress will make a nice addition to his everyday wardrobe...

DOWN IN THE DUMPS: Phil is downcast after his dreams of being Miss SL are shattered



LEIDER STEPANOV

SL MUST KEEP PACE WITH BOOMING CHINA

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:
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IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR LAB TO SECURE SECOND LIFE'S FUTURE IN THE CHINESE MARKET

CHINA is the future.

As statements go, it's not the most original. It has been obvious for months, years even. It should come as no surprise to anyone, then, that China is crucial to the future of SL. After all, this is a country with more than 200 million internet users, according to some reports. That's 200 million – more than three times the population of the UK. Its own virtual world HiPiHi is already well established.

CRUCIAL

So why are we already hearing about the Lab's failures in China? Could it be true that they have already lost out on this crucial market?

We must pay attention to what

has emerged from Anshe Chung's ACS company. After all, here is someone with RL family and cultural ties to China, as well as a vested interest in the continued success of SL.

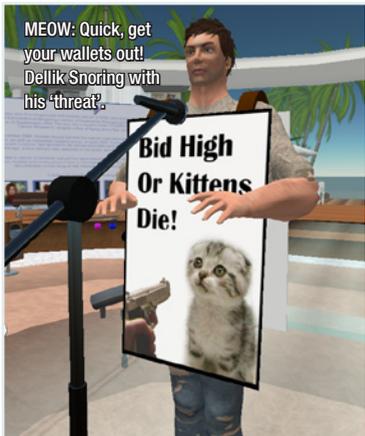
CRISIS

And we must also credit Linden Lab for not being completely ignorant – hence their tie-up with Chinese partners RTMAsia last August. In my opinion, it's too early to start talking of a crisis for SL in China, but it re-



mains something to be worried about.

Although I feel strongly about aspects of China and its regime, notably the lack of free speech, there is no doubting that it is the future – and by striving to be that future, it will slowly improve the problems. SL can be a part of that. If they're careful.



MEOW: Quick, get your wallets out! Dellik Snoring with his 'threat'.

THINK OF THE KITTENS!

THERE are many ways to persuade people to part with their hard-earned cash.

This was one I came across this week which put a smile on my face. Dellik Snoring was at the Crown and Pearl bar's charity auction last weekend, which was held in aid of cancer research (see Astars, page 19). The event was the climax to a week-long fund-raising extravaganza

in honour of bar regular Deedee Fadoodle, who is suffering from cancer in RL.

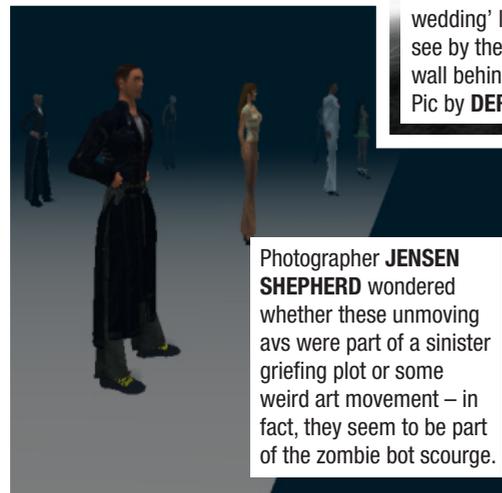
And boy did Dellik want people involved! It's just the look on the cat's face... no wonder they have already raised over L\$1 million! Fair play to him, as he generously opened his wallet to help out - and just happened to end up buying numerous dates, eh Dellik?

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

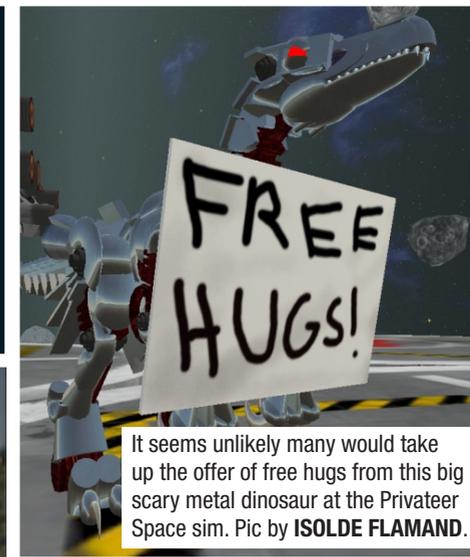
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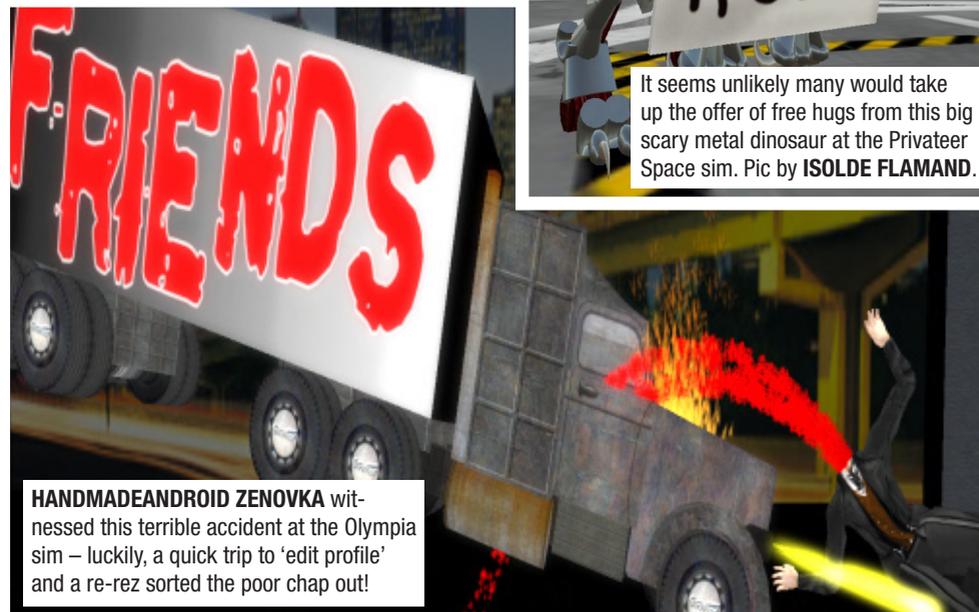
This happy couple decided to take the phrase 'shotgun wedding' literally, as you can see by the painting on the wall behind them!
Pic by DEREK HOTGER.



Photographer JENSEN SHEPHERD wondered whether these unmoving avs were part of a sinister grieving plot or some weird art movement – in fact, they seem to be part of the zombie bot scourge.



It seems unlikely many would take up the offer of free hugs from this big scary metal dinosaur at the Privateer Space sim. Pic by ISOLDE FLAMAND.



HANDMADEANDROID ZENOVKA witnessed this terrible accident at the Olympia sim – luckily, a quick trip to 'edit profile' and a re-rez sorted the poor chap out!

META-NEWS!

THE AVASTAR KEEPS YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE METAVERSE

BETTER RELATIONS

VIRTUAL worlds will revolutionise customer relations, according to Giff Constable, COO of Electric Sheep. He said: "These technologies are going to change the way you manage your brands."

VIRTUALLY ON TOP

TOYOTA has been hailed for its use of virtual worlds by marketing website Kzero. The Japanese carmaker has presences in SL, There, Gaia and Whyville, and has filmed an advert in World of Warcraft.

GAMER 'MURDERS' RL RIVAL

By COYNE NAGY

A RUSSIAN man has been arrested for the RL murder of a competitor from the Lineage II virtual world.

It is alleged he beat his victim to death after they agreed to meet in RL in an attempt to settle differences arising from a battle between the clans of Coo-clocks and Platinum. The frenzied assault took place shortly after Christmas and the victim, known only as

Albert, died on the way to hospital. The 22-year-old student who allegedly carried out the attack made no attempt to defend or justify his behaviour.

THREATS

Albert's grieving sister, known only as Albina,

is still receiving death threats from other Coo-clocks weeks after her brother's funeral. She said: "I think they have confused the game and reality. And after we buried him on December 31, they continued to threaten



VIRTUAL BATTLE: Gamers fight in Lineage II (Pic from www.lineage2.com)

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LAB CEO'S APPEAL FOR UNDERSTANDING FALLS ON DEAF EARS

By COYNE NAGY & BABA COEN

CONTROVERSIAL internet guru Robert Scoble was back in SL for the first time since his ban in 2006 as part of a series of interviews live from the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The renowned techie, who appeared in-world at the Reuters Auditorium as RobertScoble Sopwith, said he had not been back in the last 18 months since being kicked out by Linden Lab for allowing his 12 year old son to use his avatar.

Several other prominent businessmen including easyJet founder Stelios Haji-loannou, WPP CEO Martin Sorrell and PR firm boss Richard Edelman gave live interviews from the economic forum in Switzerland.

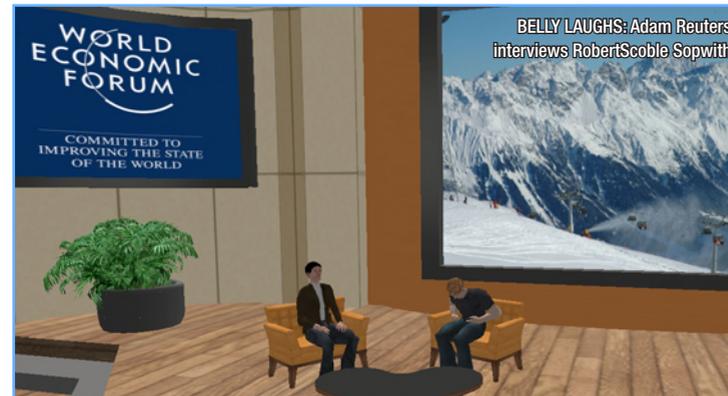
SADDENED

But Lab CEO Philip Linden, also present in Davos, came under-fire from spectators as he tried to coun-

ter the accusation that behavioural freedom in SL has been slashed in the last year. Philip appealed for SLers' understanding, insisting that he was saddened every time another restriction was imposed but that SL was still as open as possible.

CRITICISM

But not all residents were won over. Blogger Aldon Huffhines, who attended some of the talks in-world, wrote: "Yes, I feel sad too. I feel sad for Philip failing to demonstrate any leadership. I feel sad for people who want to make Second Life a more vibrant environment and keep bumping up against arbitrary and capricious restrictions by Linden Lab that are never sufficiently explained." But Mitch Kapor, LL chairman, also responded to criticism saying: "Anyone who doesn't understand it is necessary to regulate is just not on the same planet."



BELLY LAUGHS: Adam Reuters interviews RobertScoble Sopwith

LINDEX BOOST FOR ECONOMY

By COYNE NAGY

BUSINESS is booming on the grid, according to Linden Lab's latest metrics.

Sales on the Lindex jumped to US\$850,000 in December 2007, meaning a month on month increase of 60 per cent. After the slump brought on by the gambling ban and VAT charges, the Lindex recovery has provided a welcome boost.

POSITIVE

The strong economic situation in SL is reflected in the fact that more than 50,000 residents now generate a positive monthly flow of L\$. Zee Linden said: "Many of these users are creating the diverse creations and experiences that make SL such an interesting place to explore. This is the powerful engine fueling the steady long term growth of SL."

But economic improvements are underpinned by an increase in usage. In December, 519,000 active residents had an average user time of more than 49 hours and several records were set for peak concurrency. The 2007 peak was 58,000 but that figure is already approaching 62,000.

a-stars



A-STARS gossip with Isabel Brocco, Babu Writer and Kitty Otoole



TRADITIONAL: Classy looks for the men

GLAMOUR: Victorian style

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES: Shaylee Greenspan

MODEL: Candie Sparkle

BACK IN THE DAY...

By BABU WRITER

A FASHION show featuring stunning designs with intricate period detail proved the Victorians did have a sense of style.

The Victorian Style event at Dublin3

on Sunday proved very popular, and featured Atlantis Models wearing outfits by Saj Zenovka, June Dion, Terry Lightfoot, Angelique Mertel, Eladrienne Laval, Becky Book, and Cornelia Rothschild.

CHOPSTICK SAMURAI

BY ISABEL BROCCO

THE Centre For Arts at KMadd opened with a fantastic photography show by Collin Savon called 'Life Is Beautiful'.

Some of the outfits were a work of art too – Jenny Olbracht looked stunning in her Samurai-style outfit and chopstick hair-pins.



STUNNING: Jenny Olbracht

MAKE A DATE FOR L\$1M

By KITTY OTOOLE



UP FOR GRABS: Alfrik Northmead strikes a pose

A CHARITY fundraiser at The Crown & Pearl bar in aid of cancer research has smashed through the L\$1million mark and is still rising. The auction event at the Oropesa sim on January 19 was the climax to a week of events to raise money for the RL British Cancer Research charity, and saw Mia Deluca 'sold' to Dellik Snoring for L\$59,000.

Bar manager Prad Pravithi was stunned by the support for the event, held in honour of Deedee Fadoodle who is battling cancer in RL, and said: "I'm overwhelmed by the support we have gotten from our patrons, from those who have generously donated to this worthy cause and to the live musicians who gave their time to help us raise money."

A ROYAL TUNE

Pic by ISOLDE FLAMAND

TALENTED musician Heath Elvehjem gave a royal performance in-world at the Zurich Opera House on Saturday, when he played 'Greensleeves' - which legend has it was written by famous English king Henry VIII.



HARMONIC: Heath Elvehjem

Italian chic



STYLE: Model VyktorMaertens

By ISABEL BROCCO

FABULOUS new gowns were on show at the opening of two smart new catwalks on Sunday.

Fashion runway Italian Life Style (ILS) launched with a show of dresses by Callie Cline and Shai Delacroix. The party was hosted by Laura18 Streeter at the chic new Italian sim Bilogorac. The first fashion show on The SL Illustrated sim also took place on January 20, with beautiful designs from VictoriaV McMillan and Vasgez McMillan.

SPACEJUNKY!

By LEIDER STEPANOV

Pic By WIZARD GYNOID

A UNIQUE new band made their SL debut this week after being told by a Tibetan oracle that their music would be heard around the world. SpaceJunky performed

a gig in SL on January 24. Singer Shakti Cianci, said: "Being a band in SL allows us to promote our music and stay connected through the internet."



SPIKY: Shakti Cianci

IN DEEP ALPHA QUADRANT, A NEW DAY IS DAWNING...

EMERALD EBERHART

WHITE/BNSPH #4 WHITE FEMALE SKIN (RED-RED) L\$1000. BY AKIM
 CREATIONS, EXCLUSIVE ISLAND (222, 214, 42)
 ... B@R :: METALLIC BIKINI L\$130. BY ... BAREROSE :: HQ, BARE ROSE (146, 12, 30)

CYBERHEART L\$99. BY MEINISKO VOLITANT, SPACE COLONY
 NICKRONOM VI, HYPIOS (193, 203, 345)
 PARADISIS ARMOR OF RITUAL TYPE B L\$350. BY PARADISIS & CO.
 GOLDENBUSINESSAREAS (231, 201, 22)
 G52 CLASSIC BOOTS L\$200. BY JACKIE GRAVES - GRAVES - , ECSTASY CITY (117, 176, 29)



IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO USE HYPERSPACE UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY...

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY... THE BIG SALE WILL NOT WAIT FOR US!!

...TO BOLDY GO WHERE NO SHOPPER HAS GONE BEFORE

ALESSIA MCMAHON

NEBARI REBEL OUTFIT L\$1500. BY AKI SHICHIROJI, DRAX (70, 143, 57), PARADISIS ARMOR TYPE A, PINK JEWEL L\$800. BY ANKHARI TAMMIAS, PARADISIS & CO. GOLDENBUSINESSAREAS (231, 201, 22)
 SPIRE SET JEWELS L\$250. BY ALYSSA BIJOUX, JEWELLERY, KIRKSTONE (51, 234, 37)

LOCATIONS: LJ-JAYDE STARSHIP L\$3795. BY BEST MOVING SPACE SHIPS IN SL!! , ALCYON SECTOR (142, 112, 300)
 AVPACK L\$1999. BY TROPICAL FISH, MELANTHIA (215, 46, 32)

Callie cLine's

STYLE HOTLINE

PICK'N'MIX YOUR FASHION

CREATE A FUN-TASTIC MIXED UP FASHION LOOK WITH YOUR PARTNER

I WAS at a wedding this week for Miss SL Universe winner BabyHoney Bailey, and the well-dressed crowd donned everything from formals and faerie outfits to tuxes and masks.

The variety showed how diverse and experimental people are in SL. One fun thing to do is to match up with your man. I don't mean identical, but there are little things you can do to mix and match a bit.

So here's an idea for going out dancing or on a date. Pick a colour with your friend or date and each of you wear

something in that tone. For this look, male model Cast Flatley and I went for fun and casual. I did a lot of mixing with pieces from Torrid Midnight, Bare Rose, as well as my own mini skirt. I love how my new

High Top red sneakers play off Cast's deep red shirt. His jeans with the patches mixed with a great pair of shoes really make his look more stylish than if he had also worn sneakers. My over-the-kneesocks add to the casual look, and play well against Cast's white t-shirt. I like the extra colour in his jeans, as it adds a bit more fun to the look.

I'd love to see what you come up with - send a photo to newsdesk@the-avastar.com, and three winners will get some matching jeans and sweaters!!!



WHAT'S HOT! ITALIAN STALLIONS

BY CARRIE SODWIND
SUAVE Italians with bags of city chic are arriving en masse at a new sim to show badly dressed men how it should be done.

With smooth olive-black hair and Mediterranean tans, two of the joint owners of ILS (Italian Life Style), Whole Wozniak and Cesare Questi were snapped anxiously working away just days before it opened. With relaxed baggy chinos and sleek accessories such as a subtly patterned grey scarf you'd do worse than take a tip from them.



HIT OR MISS

Successes and flops from this week's new fashion releases.
 By CARRIE SODWIND



HIT: EIGHT different buckles on one boot - not bad, even for Zhao. But you will have to have a real boot fetish to afford L\$650 for the new Asta boots, now at her HQ in Agard (225, 22, 24). They come with fitted leggings which have matching chain details.

MISS: THE 'I Don't Ever Want to See You Again Dress' comes in a "special, unflattering length" according to the designer at store BBBM. It is probably so named, because if your girlfriend wore that to your party, it is exactly what you would say. L\$150 at Envy (96, 82, 22)



HIT: ELEGANT Victorian style is making a comeback, in stores and on the catwalk. Keep your eye on The Seamstress, Maske (20, 86, 124) - this dress, Janet for L\$250, has a wonderfully dramatic hat topped in feathers and a cog.





cc
caLLie cLine

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INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

KIT MAITLAND OF CKS DESIGNS



FOR TONS OF FUN I LIKE...

"...these killer squirrels. They were freebies at Abranditions. They're most fun when you have a baseball bat in your hand, too, because then it looks like you're trying to beat them off!"

I CAN'T TAKE OFF...

"...my Maitreya boots by Onyx LeShell. They are called 'Bloom' and I have them in both black and white. I particularly love the little buckles and how the straps are done - they look so realistic. I wear them with everything, because I don't want to take them off."



I JUST LOVE...

"...this new animation called 'Catfight' by Xerxes Luna from a shop called Tiny, Inc. When you want to fight with someone, you type "/>



GREENFINGERS



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

- L\$100**

NIRVANA Old Bucket of Water
By Carrie Grant
Flora (202, 70, 24)


- L\$100**

TSG large green watering can
By Hamish Stuart
Blooms (248, 10, 23)


- L\$195**

Jade Deere Lawn Mower
By Jade Opel
Blooms (248, 10, 23)


- L\$200**

Leaf pile with rake
By Julia Hathor & Heather Goodliffe
Shadow Brook (111, 178, 24)


- L\$150**

Light or dark green frog
Kiss it and maybe your prince will come!
By Jake Cellardoor
Clementina (69, 210, 22)



NIKKI RESIDENTIAL

SHOPPING AREA

MIMI'S CHOICE

REALASM

BANUS BEACH

RAVELLO

CURIOSA MENTE

QUALIBRE GREEN DESIGNS

ALEXA SECRET COLLECTIONS

NEW ART

PINK 19

KNIGHTSBRIDGE COUTURE

LIGNE BEAUMONT

THE PURPLE HEART SHOP

N

NIKKI RESIDENTIAL
NIKKI ISLAND - AMBROSIAL

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A PERFECT SPOT FOR RELAXING, CELTIC DREAMS, LITERATURE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SOOTHING: The thermal bath at Dolce Vita



By KONSTANTIN WAECHTER

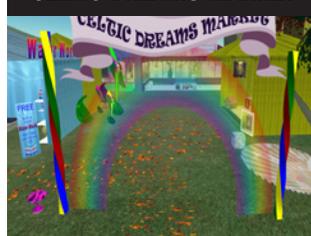
RELAXING is the order of the day at Dolce Vita in the Bilogorac Sim (188, 117, 90).

At the landing zone you'll find an intricate fountain which leads directly to the thermal bath. Take a moment and relax in the whirlpool, on the massage table or in the sauna. Two floors higher, you can go for a drink at the Italian-style club,

the pool and an espresso at the piazza bar.

Head for a clearing in the middle of the woods at the Volpe sim (234, 169, 54) to discover the Celtic Dreams Market. There is a multitude of colourful stands offering a vast variety of goods, such as clothing, jewellery and paintings.

CELTIC DREAMS MARKET

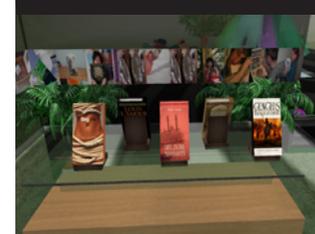


or just take a stroll and have a seat in the picturesque little park. Finish with a quick dip in

the venue will also hold readings in ten different languages every last Thursday of the month, as well as exhibitions and discussions for literature fans.

Seek out wisdom at the YKDS-Oracle project at the Professionals Sim (157, 231, 24), which will

LITERATURE HOUSE DAGNY



The Literature House Dagny will celebrate its opening with a reading by Susanne Berkenberger on January 31. Based at the Dagny NW sim (151, 123, 22),

YKDS-ORACLE



open on January 26. The highlight is an artificially intelligent and savvy oracle chatbot which invites you to an interactive experience. It will enable users to be linked with each other to find out a secret.



For advice write to
Randi Barracuda at:
dearrandi@the-avastar.com

DEAR

EX LIVING WITH LOVER DAYS AFTER DIVORCE

STAR
LETTER
L\$500
send me a mail

IS IT TOO SOON AFTER OUR SPLIT FOR HIM TO SHACK UP WITH ANOTHER WOMAN?

Dear Randi: MY SL husband of eight months and I decided to divorce after the chemistry between us disappeared, and we had an amicable split a couple of weeks ago. He gave me a few thousand L\$ to help me get a new place to live, and kept the house he had owned since before he knew me. Then I found out that less than a week after

the divorce, another woman had moved in! I was pretty upset. I asked him if they had been fooling around before the split and he denied it. But don't you think it's too quick for him to replace me? — I.N.

Randi says: 'Proper' society might say it is too quick, but the rules are a little muddled in SL. Perhaps they were involved

before the divorce and perhaps not. But she could have been someone he just met, as divorced men may be quicker than divorced women in looking for new bedroom partners. You're free now, and what he does is no longer your concern. It may take a while for you to see it, but sometimes divorce is a blessing.

TEMPTED TO CHEAT ON MY SEXLESS HUSBAND 'SICK HUBBY' INVENTED TO GET MY ATTENTION

Dear Randi: ABOUT a year ago I thought I had found the love of my life. Now I have been married to him in-world for six months, and he's a smart, sweet and very wealthy guy who is always spoiling me with gifts. My problem is our sex life, which seemed to stop abruptly about a month ago. He says he's just too busy and tired. I spoke with an old boyfriend about the situation, and instead of giving me advice he just offered to help take care of my needs in the bedroom. I'm interested and tempted. Should I cheat on my husband? — L.P.

Randi says: No you should not, no matter how tempting the situation. A marriage vow isn't something to be discarded like a worn-out dress. If you do decide to divorce him, then tell him exactly that and move on. But if you decide just to cheat on him without provocation, it may come back to haunt you.

Dear Randi: ONE of the first people I met on the grid became my best friend, but I always thought she was immature. I have made many friends here since, but just about everyone on her friends list is someone I met first. About a month ago, she told me her RL husband had cancer, and wanted me to help set up a fund to help with their expenses. I did and donated L\$10,000 myself, but soon after that she admitted he wasn't sick and she made up the story to get attention from me. What should I do about her? — S.P.

Randi says: It must be tempting to mute her, because the woman seems unstable, and may not be an asset to you. You need to talk to her and tell her how disappointed you are. And if you decide to keep her as a friend, she needs to understand that was her very last chance to make a big mistake. Make it clear to her that if she continues her toxic behaviour, you will mute her for good.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

MY GIRL USED TO BE AN ESCORT

Dear Randi: I HAVE been looking for a relationship ever since I arrived in-world, and finally found a woman who is beautiful, intelligent and attentive. I'm thinking about proposing marriage, but still need a little time to make sure. I discovered recently that she used to be an escort, and that one of

my male acquaintances was a frequent customer. He keeps telling me how amazing she is in bed and about all the things they did. She says that part of her life is over, and that she really loves me. Does she seem to be worth the risk? — R.J.

Randi says: If she's really as great for you as you say, then

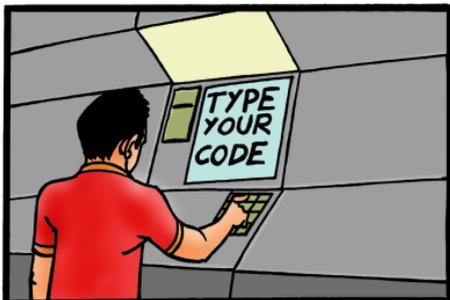
of course she is! People can change, and if you love her you must accept her word on leaving the escort business. As for her former customer, tell him at once and tell him very clearly that you don't want to hear another word about their 'sex-capades'. If he continues, don't be shy about muting him.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK FOR AND BETTER OR FOR WORSE, WEEK THREE:

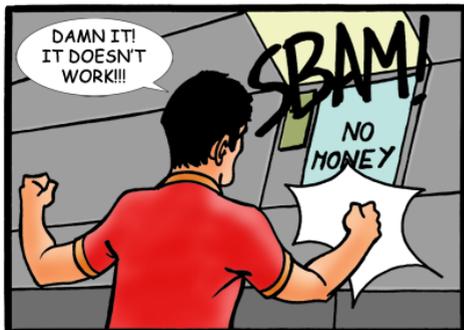


HOT Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler
Regis Braathens



"FREAKY FINANCE"



© Andrea Manfredini 2008



Freebies

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: THE WEB IMAGE VIEWER

FORGET uploading loads of textures, there is a much simpler way to grab photos from the web to use in SL.

The Web Image Viewer V2.0, created by Dudeney Ge, can be found at EduNation II (107, 204, 22). It is a great tool, consisting of a screen and an antenna, both of which you need to rez – four prims in total. Inside the screen, there is a notecard called 'images', where you can type the web address of the pictures you like. And that's it. When done, it's possible to click on the screen, and the usual blue menu will allow you to choose one of the

images. So how does it work? **TRUST** The viewer is run from Ge's own server. When you use it, a unique media file is generated and stored using your avatar

key. The creator has promised not to use the info, but if you still don't trust it, don't use it. The scripts are open source, though, so you can set them up on your own server.



PANORAMIC: The Web Image Viewer

ADVERT

THE AVASTAR
Your World. Your Voice.

WANTED!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE BEST WRITERS FROM OTHER VIRTUAL WORLDS!

SEND AN E-MAIL TO:
NEWSDESK@THE-AVASTAR.COM
OR IM LEIDER STEPANOV



Celebrating first life

Tribute island is a non-profit celebration of life - it contains an assortment of tributes to iconic movie stars, artists and sportspeople, and features a virtual memorial garden dedicated to the men and women of the UK who have given their lives for their country during recent conflicts in the middle-east.

- 1000's of L\$ in prizes!
- Live DJ's & music every Friday 1pm-4pm SLT
- 100's of freebies!
- Amazing sculpture park!
- Leave your own tributes!
- Great to explore!



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Tribute island is produced and maintained by Associated Northcliffe Digital (AND)

THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: AFRICA

OUT OF AFRICA

By GAETANA FAUST



AFRICAN ART
Ancestral Home

GO ON SAFARI TO THE BEST AFRICAN HOTSPOTS ON THE GRID

EXPLORE the cradle of human civilisation through the cities, villages, jungles and wild plains of Africa in SL.

Start your safari at the **Little Africa** village in Sakai (23, 121, 22), where you can buy colourful, unique African clothing.

Dahab Sinai in Orthon (112, 76, 22) is a fantastic place to stroll along the ocean front and experience all the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of a bustling seaside Egyptian town. Check out the displays of exotic lamps, rugs and clothing in local shops as you meander along the stone walkway and bask in the sun.

Drop by the **House of Africa** in Commerce City (107, 22, 35) to see and buy all kinds of African goods,

including pottery, clothing, furniture, textures and art. Touch the floor to teleport to the gallery, where the walls are covered with many styles of paintings and sketches with African themes.

TRADITION

More African art can be found at **Ancestral Home** in Seu (153, 67, 79). African bowls and vases echo the lines of traditional vessels made in local villages. Find out more about RL African non-profit organisations at Uthango Social Investments in Sunset Commerce (41, 88, 24), a beautiful modern building where you can learn about Africa today both in RL and in virtual worlds, and even contribute by helping pay for a bicycle for a family in need.

LIONS AND GIRAFFES AFRICA



Enjoy the sprawling sim, which includes stunning vistas and a free balloon tour over mountains, plains and waterfalls.

Where: Africa (128, 128, 0)

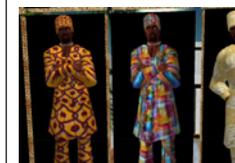
FOLLOW THE CAMELS DURRAT AL GHAWWAS



The North African-themed sim hosts a labyrinth of exotic buildings, perfect for a day of exploring.

Where: Durrat Al Ghawwas (128, 128, 0)

COLOUR AND CULTURE LITTLE AFRICA



Rent an authentic African hut or hang out at the bar and listen to lively local music.

Where: Sakai (23, 121, 22)

1.25. - 1.31.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



OPENING

OOOHLALA MODE

Designer stores First Impressions, Irelyn and Rose Petal Creations will open their new sim, which promises to be a feminin fashionable heaven.

When: Jan. 26, 13:00

Where: Ooohlala Mode (128, 128)



ENTERTAINMENT

CLUB SALSA EN CIELO

The club celebrates its first anniversary with a big party. Mr. Love-songs Writer will perform live and provide hot latin rhythms for the crowd.

When: Jan. 27, 12:00

Where: Kreis (85, 62, 21)



EXHIBITION

ESSENTIAL MOMENTS

Photographer PJ Trenton displays a range of black and white pictures at the outdoor gallery.

When: Jan. 26, 12:00

Where: Nantucket (34, 121, 22)



EDUCATION

SCRIPTING CLASS

If you can't script but would love to know how, this is the perfect class to start with. Beginners are welcome.

When: Jan. 27, 14:00

Where: Travittown (156, 62, 22)



ENTERTAINMENT

ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Titty Twister club celebrates its first year anniversary with a party featuring plenty of sexy vixens.

When: Jan. 27, 14:00 & 19:00

Where: Nemnem (68, 168, 31)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

REICHSTAG GRAND OPENING

The Reichstag club and shop complex celebrates its grand opening with three live performances, starting with Harleykillernl Back.

When: Jan. 26, 14:00

Where: Born (75, 120, 32)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



LIVE MUSIC

TONE URIZA

The talented musician will play what is sure to be a popular gig at the Jazz and Piano Bar at Freundstadt.

When: Jan. 29, 11:00

Where: Merzig Wadern virt (94, 211, 28)



DISCUSSION

VIRTUAL WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS

Robin Linden will join a panel of high profile experts for the talk at the University of Southern California's sim.

When: Jan. 28, 12:00

Where: Annenberg Island (188, 67, 40)



LIVE MUSIC

PAM AND BILL

Bill and Pam Havercamp perform acoustic duets with a wide range of songs going all the way back to the 1950s.

When: Jan. 27, 11:00

Where: Mobil Denmark Fyn (121, 197, 26)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

1876 WINTER FESTIVAL

The Deadwood group recreate a winter festival from 1876 with music, dancing and plenty of prizes on offer.

When: Jan. 26, 07:00

Where: Phoenix Pass (132, 208, 28)



NIGHTLIFE

DJ ROSE EVANS

Chase away the Sunday blues with a dance session at Club Republik. DJ Rose Evans will be spinning the tracks.

When: Jan. 27, 19:00

Where: NuRepublik (122, 146, 23)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

DO you have an event which you would like to see published in The AvaStar's Events section? If so, email us details at news-desk@the-avastar.com.

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What do you do for a living in Second Life?

Gorgeous Yongho: I own and manage La Reina. It's a residential and commercial island with a lovely boardwalk. I also have a small shop selling shapes and 'Juicy' poses.

TA: What is your best feature?

GY: My shape. I like that I'm petite, and not towering over everyone. I think that in SL, our shape makes us unique and is a big part of our avatar identity.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

GY: I like to shop, chill with my friends, make poses and take care of the people on my island. But mostly I like to shop, somebody has to keep the economy healthy, right?

TA: What is the most precious item in your inventory?

GY: I can't pick just one item, but I love all my hair. I have to spend time tweaking each style for a perfect fit.

TA: If SL had a president, who would you vote for?

GY: I would vote for myself. If I was president SL would be a happier place and definitely a lot more stylish!

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

BY PAOLO BADE

GORGEOUS YONGHO

FASHION-MAD DIVA AND SHOPAHOLIC

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: GORGEOUS YONGHO

BIRTH DATE: 11/30/2006

PROFESSION: Landlady

ATTITUDE: Diva